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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/271,259	03/17/1999	TAKAFUMI NOGUCHI	2091-0189P	3867

7590 11/06/2002

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EXAMINER

VU, NGOC YEN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2612

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DATE MAILED: 11/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/271,259

Applicant(s)  
Takafumi NOGUCHI

Examiner  
Ngoc-Yen Vu

Art Unit  
2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 17, 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2612

***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Specification***

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Art Unit: 2612

3. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawai et al. (US ,943,143).

Claim 3 will be discussed first. Regarding claim 3, Kawai '143 teaches a system for adjusting image brightness comprising an adjuster having adjustment means for effecting a computation on color image data represented by a color signal composed of at least three components to obtain pixel lightness components and adjusting brightness of an image represented by the color image data based on the lightness components (see Figs. 1-7, col. 5 line 10 - col. 12 line 42), the system being characterized in that the adjuster further comprises adjustment means for adjusting the brightness of the image represented by the color image data based on color saturation components of the pixels (see Fig. 2; col. 3 line 17 - col. 4 line 18; col. 5 line 35 - col. 6 line 49; col. 8 lines 1- col. 10 line 16).

Regarding claim 1, it is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 3. Therefore, claim 1 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2612

4. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawai et al. (US #5,943,143) in view of Sato et al. (US #6,125,199).

Claim 4 will be discussed first. As to claim 2, Kawai teaches that the adjuster includes weighted lightness component computing means for computing weighted lightness components of the pixels by weighting the lightness components of the pixels by the color saturation components of the pixels (col. 3 lines 52-59; col. 8 line 1 - col. 9 line 33); and conversion means for converting the color image data (Fig. 3, color conversion unit 204a; Fig. 6, color modification means 107). Claim 2 differs from Kawai in that the claim further requires mean value computing means for computing mean values of the weighted lightness components, and the conversion means convert the color image data to make the mean values desired values. However, it is well known in the art to compute mean values of weighted lightness components of the pixels by the color saturation components of the pixels, and converting a color image data to achieve the computed means values, as taught in Sato '199 (see Fig. 46, evaluation value calculating unit 118; col. 1 line 32 - col. 3 line 40). In light of the teaching from Sato, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the system for adjusting color image brightness taught in Kawai mean value computing means for computing mean values of the weighted lightness components so as to provide optimum color correction parameters.

As to claim 2, it is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 4. Therefore, claim 2 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 4.

Art Unit: 2612

*Conclusion*

5. **Any response to this office action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

(for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington.

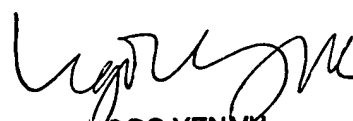
VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Ngoc-Yen Vu** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Wendy Garber**, can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

NYV  
11/04/2002

  
NGOC-YEN VU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER